



Contact: Nancy Benecki, Public Information Officer
(201) 460-4662 nancy.benecki@njmeadowlands.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 13, 2006

NJMC Adopts Regulations to Encourage Environmentally Friendly Buildings

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission today adopted a series of new regulations designed to promote environmentally friendly construction and building management geared toward the sustainable growth of the Meadowlands District.

“These regulations will serve as an incentive for those bringing new projects to the Meadowlands to build Green,” said NJMC Chair Susan Bass Levin, also Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. “Furthermore, today’s actions coincide with the DCA Green Building Task Force’s mission to transform New Jersey into a national leader in green program and policy initiatives. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is at the forefront of these efforts. We have a unique opportunity to pursue sustainable building practices in a regionally integrated manner.”

The voluntary incentives encourage environmentally responsible design practices consistent with the guidelines of the U.S. Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. The incentives include a partial refund of required zoning review fees based on the level of LEED certification achieved. Refunds will be 30 percent for a Platinum project, 25 for Gold, 20 for Silver and 15 for Certified. Applications for LEED-certified projects will receive a priority review by NJMC staff. There will also be density incentives for new LEED-certified buildings and additions where residential uses are permitted.

LEED is a national standard created to evaluate development incorporating green building methods. LEED scorecards have been developed by the USGBC to assign credits to projects based on a range of criteria, including site location, energy efficiency, resource conservation and environmental quality. Projects receive certification based on their scores. LEED certification is available for new and existing developments through LEED New Construction and Existing Buildings programs.

These incentives are the latest step in the NJMC establishing itself as a leader in green building and sustainable energy. Earlier this year, the NJMC formed the Regional Renewable Energy District in the Meadowlands, with the goal of creating 20 Megawatts of renewable energy within the Meadowlands District by the year 2020. This district will consist of NJMC municipalities, boards of education, neighboring municipalities, developers, fellow state and government agencies that will work together to achieve this goal. A new science center and observatory for the NJMC’s Meadowlands Environment

Center (MEC) will be constructed according to LEED Gold standards, and current buildings will be retrofitted to meet standards for existing buildings.

“This agency’s commitment to Green Building practices and renewable energy will enhance the quality of our environment and the quality of life for those who work and live in this area,” said NJMC Commissioner Leonard Kaiser. “The old ways of constructing buildings and consuming energy are now obsolete, and we must lead the way toward a better way of doing things. By encouraging compliance with green building standards, this agency is ensuring that we have both an economically and environmentally secure future as a community.”

#####